

THE FEEL OF JOT

**(From my autobiography, POSSIPLEX,
slightly rearranged.)**

**JOT was now at last demonstrable, at least in part. Had I
been right about its feeling creamy-smooth?**

You betcha.

**Jonathan vos Post worked with Mark Miller on a version
of JOT for the Z-80, as I recall.**

**As they worked, Jon said to Mark, ‘Ted’s got some good
ideas, but I think we should fix them.’**

**Mark replied, ‘I know Ted better than you do. Let’s try it
his way first.’**

Both were surprised by the result.

=== MARK MILLER

What would Mark Miller have said about JOT? (ca.1978)

Mark Miller says this about the feel of JOT:

**"The result worked amazingly well. Ted's model of how
people form models, and of what models they form, is
somehow more accurate than I can understand.**

...

**"Ted successfully designed a system that leveraged these
intuitions to give the users more power, more quickly,
and more intuitively, and through a thinner interface,
than I would have thought possible. Even I, when I went**

to use JOT, found that it would effortless [sic] do what I expected it to do, and what I wanted it to do. So long as I could make myself forget what I actually knew about the underlying formal complexity, JOT always seemed simple."

-- Email from Mark Miller to the author, 2005.08.11.

=== JONATHAN POST

What would Jon Post have said about JOT? (ca.1978)

Here is Jon's reply when I recently asked him to summarize:

"... your genius was not just in that JOT worked as you said it would, albeit with 100 times more lines of code than you predicted, but that it FELT the way you said it would. You are the greatest genius of software design in the world because, among other things, how astonishingly well you intuit ... Virtuality."*

*** "Virtuality" meaning the seeming of a system—look, feel and conceptual structure, a usage that I would argue goes back hundreds of years. (Others use it simply to mean 3D.)**

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